Amendment to the Specification

Please insert the following sentence into the first line of the specification:

This application is a 371 National Stage filing of PCT/EP2005/002454 filed March 4, 2005, which claims priority to EP 04090087.0, filed March 5, 2004, and claims priority to EP 04090121.7, filed March 29, 2004, and claims priority to EP 04090483.1, filed December 9, 2004, and claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/549,980, filed March 5, 2004, the disclosures all of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Please replace the paragraphs at page 77 lines 11-25 with the following:

The conditions and buffer specified by the manufacturer were used. In addition, the reaction preparation for the first strand synthesis contained the following substances:

3 µg Total RNA

5 µM 3'-primer (OK1rev1:5′-GACTCAACCACATAACACACAAAGATC) (SEQ ID NO: 27)

0.83 µM dNTP Mix

The reaction preparation was incubated for 5 minutes at 75°C and subsequently cooled to room temperature.

The 1st strand buffer, RNase inhibitor and DTT were then added and incubated for 2 minutes at 42°C before 1 µL Superscript RT DNA polymerase was added and the reaction preparation incubated for 50 minutes at 42°C.

Conditions for the amplification of the first strand by means of PCR:

1 µL of the reaction preparation of the first strand synthesis

0.25 µM 3'Primer (OK1rev2:5′- TGGTAACGAGGCAAATGCAGA) (SEQ ID NO: 28)

0.25 µM 5'Primer (OK1fwd2:5′- ATCTCTTATCACACCACCTCCAATG) (SEQ ID NO: 29)

Please replace the paragraphs at pages 88 line 10 to 89 line 18 with the following:

The part of the open reading frame from position -11 to position 288 of the sequence specified under ~~SEQ DIE NO 3~~ SEQ ID NO: 3 was amplified using reverse transcriptase and polymerase chain reaction using the synthetic oligonucleotides Os_ok1-R9 (GGAACCGATAATGCCTACATGCTC) (SEQ ID NO: 30) and Os_ok1-F6 (AAAACTCGAGGAGGATCAATGACGTCGCTGCGGCCCCTC) (SEQ ID NO: 31) as a primer on RNA of immature rice seeds. The amplified DNA fragment was cloned into the vector pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as pML123.

The part of the open reading frame from position 250 to position 949 of the sequence specified under ~~SEQ DIE NO 3~~ SEQ ID NO: 3 was amplified using reverse transcriptase and polymerase chain reaction using the synthetic oligonucleotides Os_ok1-F4 (CCAGGTTAAGTTTGGTGAGCA) (SEQ ID NO: 32) and Os_ok1-R6 (CAAAGCACGATATCTGACCTGT) (SEQ ID NO: 33) as a primer on RNA of immature rice seeds. The amplified DNA fragment was cloned into the vector pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as pML120.

The part of the open reading frame from position 839 to position 1761 of the sequence specified under ~~SEQ DIE NO 3~~ SEQ ID NO: 3 was amplified using reverse transcriptase and polymerase chain reaction using the synthetic oligonucleotides Os_ok1-F7 (TTGTTCGCGGGATATTGTCAGA) (SEQ ID NO: 34) and Os_ok1-R7 (GACAAGGGCATCAAGAGTAGTATC) (SEQ ID NO: 35) as a primer on RNA of immature rice seeds. The amplified DNA fragment was cloned into the vector pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as pML121.

The part of the open reading frame from position 1571 to position 3241 of the sequence specified under ~~SEQ DIE NO 3~~ SEQ ID NO: 3 was amplified using reverse transcriptase and polymerase chain reaction using the synthetic oligonucleotides Os_ok1-F8 (ATGATGCGCCTGATAATGCT) (SEQ ID NO: 36) and Os_ok1-R4

(GGCAAACAGTATGAAGCACGA) (SEQ ID NO: 37) as a primer on RNA of immature rice seeds. The amplified DNA fragment was cloned into the vector pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as pML119.

The part of the open reading frame from position 2777 to position 3621 was amplified using polymerase chain reaction using the synthetic oligonucleotides Os_ok1-F3 (CATTTGGATCAATGGAGGATG) (SEQ ID NO: 38) and Os_ok1-R2 (CTATGGCTGTGGCCTGCTTTGCA) (SEQ ID NO: 39) as a primer on genomic DNA of rice. The amplified DNA fragment was cloned into the vector pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as pML122.

Please replace the paragraph at page 90 lines 4-8 with the following:

An 845 base pair long fragment of pML122 was reamplified for introducing a *XhoI* site after the stop codon with the primers Os_ok1-F3 (see above) and Os_ok1-R2Xho (AAAACTCGAGCTATGGCTGTGGCCTGCTTTGCA) (SEQ ID NO: 40) and cloned into the vector pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as t pMI45.

Please replace the paragraph at pages 93 line 19 to 94 line 8 with the following:

The plasmid pIR94 was obtained by amplifying the promoter of the globulin gene from rice by means of a polymerase chain reaction (30 x 20 sec 94 °C, 20 sec 62 °C, 1 min 68 °C, 4 mM Mg2SO4) with the primers glb1-F2 (AAAACAATTGGCGCCTGGAGGGAGGAGA) (SEQ ID NO: 41) and glb1-R1 (AAAACAATTGATGATCAATCAGACAATCACTAGAA) (SEQ ID NO: 42) on the genomic DNA of rice of the variety M202 with High Fidelity Taq Polymerase (Invitrogen, catalogue number 11304-011) and cloned into pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20).

The plasmid pIR115 was obtained by cloning a synthetic piece of DNA consisting of the two oligonucleotides X1 (TGCAGGCTGCAGAGCTCCTAGGCTCGAGTTAACACTAGTAAGCTTAATTAAGATAT

CATTTAC) (SEQ ID NO: 43) and X2 (AATTGTAAATGATATCTTAATTAAGCTTACTAGTGTTAACTCGAGCCTAGGAGCTCT GCAGCCTGCA) (SEQ ID NO: 44) into the vector pGSV71 excised with *Sda*I and *Mun*I. The plasmid pIR115 obtained was excised with *Sda*I, the protruding 3'-ends smoothed with T4 DNA polymerase and a 197-base-pair *HindIII / SphI* fragment from pBinAR (Höfgen and Willmitzer, 1990, Plant Science 66, 221-230), smoothed by means of T4 DNA polymerase and containing the termination signal of the octopine synthase gene from *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, was inserted. The plasmid obtained was designated as pIR96.

Please replace the paragraph at pages 95 line 24 to 96 line 2 with the following:

The plasmid pIR87 was obtained by amplifying the intron 1 of the gene coding for alcohol hydrogenase from maize with the primers Adh(i)-1 (TTTTCTCGAGGTCCGCCTTGTTTCTCCT) (SEQ ID NO: 45) and Adh(i)-2 (TTTTCTCGAGCTGCACGGGTCCAGGA) (SEQ ID NO: 46) on the genomic DNA of maize. The product of the polymerase chain reaction (30 x 30 sec 94 °C, 30 sec 59 °C, 1 min 72 °C, 2.5 mM $MgCl_2$) was digested with the restriction enzyme *Xho*I and cloned into the vector pBluescript II SK+ (Genbank Acc.: X52328), which had been excised with the same enzyme.